

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /075 W

----- 111143

R 101539Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972

INFO AMEMASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3201

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, UR, AU

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GDR

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 0447 (B) BONN 3897

1. WHETHER ABRASIMOV'S RETURN TO GDR AS SOVIET
AMBASSADOR SIGNIFIES STIFFER SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD
FRG, GDR, OR WEST BERLIN (REF A) IS NOT NOW CLEAR, BUT
IT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE SOME SOVIET DISSATISFACTION
REGARDING BERLIN OR EAST GERMAN AFFAIRS. FROM
STANDPOINT OF ABRASIMOV'S CAREER, RETURN TO
BERLIN PRESUMABLY GUARANTEES HIS RETENTION OF CPSU
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AT 1975 CPSU PARTY

CONGRESS, BUT THIS IS CERTAINLY NO PROMOTION. THIS IS, IN FACT, A SURPRISINGLY SHARP TURNABOUT IN PROSPECTS SINCE RECENTLY THE MOSCOW PRESS LISTED ABRASIMOV BELOW FONMIN GROMYKO AND AHEAD OF FIRST DEPUTY FONMIN KUZNETSOV, WHICH SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE PROMOTION IN THE MFA. BERLIN ASSIGNMENT COULD ALSO BE REGARDED AS A SLIGHT DEMOTION FROM ABRASIMOV'S ASSIGNMENT AS HEAD OF A CPSU DEPARTMENT, PRESUMABLY DEPARTMTNT FOR CADRES ABROAD, WHICH SUPERVISES OVERSEAS POSTINGS OF ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS. AMORE FRIVOLOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE POSTING OF ABRASIMOV TO BERLIN PUT FORWARD BY LOCAL WAGS IS THAT HE IS NEEDED TO OFFSET THE BUMBLING OF GROMYKO'S SON, THE NEW MINISTER IN THE EMBASSY.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT BONN'S SUGGESTION (REF B) THAT THE DECISION TO SHIFT YEFREMOV FROM BERLIN TO VIENNA WAS A RELATIVELY RECENT ONE. WE REGARD YEFREMOV'S TRANSFER AS A PARTY DEMOTION SINCE SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA NORMALLY DO NOT CARRY CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. WHILE THIS WOULD IMPLY DISSATISFACTION AT HIS HANDLING OF THE EMBASSY, THE REASONS FOR THE TRANSFER COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE AS MUCH TO DO WITH SOVIET PERSONNEL MANEUVERINGS BEFORE THE CPSU CONGRESS AS WITH BILATERAL SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS. STOEESLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW03201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-1090
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachug.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 0447, 75 BONN 3897
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <08 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GDR
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GC, GE, UR, AU, (ABRASIMOV, P A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006